

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

) PROCESS AND APPARATUS FOR USE IN
) PREPARING AN AQUEOUS MAGNESIUM
) BICARBONATE SOLUTION
)
)
)
)
 International Appln. No. PCT/AU03/00417
)
)
)

Filing Date: April 7, 2003

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
Mail Stop: PCT

Dear Sir:

IN CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Original) A method of preparing a substantially clear aqueous solution containing magnesium bicarbonate, including the steps of:
 - contacting, with species resulting from the dissolution of carbon dioxide in water, an aqueous suspension of magnesium carbonate, at suitable conditions of pressure and temperature, so as to obtain an aqueous solution of magnesium bicarbonate; and
 - controlling the pH of the said solution so that, after reaction of the said species with the magnesium carbonate, the final pH falls within a range of from about 8,0 to about 8,8, wherein the concentration of calcium compounds or ions in the water and any other ingredients used to prepare the aqueous solution is about equal to or lower than that whereby insoluble calcium species would result, thereby allowing a substantially clear aqueous solution to be prepared.